

Appl. No. 10/528,215

Attorney Docket No. 11138-017

III. Remarks

Reconsideration and re-examination of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is herein respectfully requested.

After entering this amendment, claims 2-20 remain pending.

Specification

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the specification because the abstract contained a minor grammatical error. As such, the abstract has been amended to remove this error. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been introduced into the application.

Claim Objections

Claims 8 and 18 were objected because of informalities. Claims 8 and 18 have been amended to remove these informalities. Accordingly, it is believed that this objection is now moot and should be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner's indication that claims 3-6, 9-15, and 18-20 rewritten in independent form is gratefully acknowledged. With regard to claims 3, 5, 6, 11, 18, and 19, these claims are now presented in independent form including all the limitations of their base claims and any intervening claims. Since dependent claims necessarily include all the limitations of their intervening claims, it is submitted that these amendments are not narrowing amendments

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and do not give rise to any estoppel issues with regard to their interpretation under the doctrine of equivalents or limitations on that doctrine.

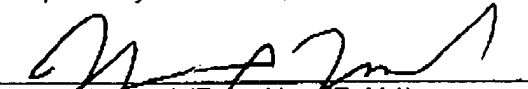
The remaining claims are dependent on either claims 3, 5, 6, 11, 18, or 19 and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons as stated above.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present form of the claims are patentably distinguishable over the art of record and that this application is now in condition for allowance. Such action is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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